Patent claims

1. Contamination barrier for the prevention of contamination of aqueous solutions in open and/or automated system that comprises at least one water immiscible hydrocarbon or hydrocarbon mixture.

2. Contamination barrier as described in claim 1 characterised in that it is an unsubstituted hydrocarbon.

3. Contamination barrier as described in claim 1 characterised in that it is a substituted hydrocarbon.

4. Contamination barrier as described in one of claims 1 to 3 characterised in that it is a saturated or unsaturated cyclic hydrocarbon.

5. Contamination barrier as described in one of the claims 1 to 3 characterised in that it is a branched and/or unbranched acyclic hydrocarbon.

6. Contamination barrier as described in one of the claims 1 to 5 characterised in that the hydrocarbon has 5 to 20, preferably 6 bis 16, most preferably 8 bis 12 carbon atoms.

7. Contamination barrier as described in one of the claims 1 to 6 characterised in that this as hydrocarbon is most preferably a branched or unbranched alkane with preferably 8 to 12 carbon atoms.

8. Contamination barrier as described in claim 7 characterised in that this as alkane is preferably octane, nonane, decane and/or decane as well as mixtures thereof.

9. Contamination barrier as described in one of the claims 1 to 8 characterised in that this as hydrocarbon mixture is mineral oil.

10. Method for the prevention of contamination characterised in that during the processing of aqueous solutions in open and/or automated systems they are covered with at least one water immiscible hydrocarbon or hydrocarbon mixture.

11. Method as described in claim 10 characterised in that an unsubstituted hydrocarbon is used for covering.

12. Method as described in claim 10 characterised in that a substituted hydrocarbon is used for covering.

13. Method according to one of the claims 10 to 12 characterised in that a saturated or unsaturated cyclic hydrocarbon is used.

14. Method according to one of the claims 10 to 12 characterised in that a branched or unbranched acyclic hydrocarbon is used.

15. Method according to one of the claims 10 to 14 characterised in that a hydrocarbon with 5 to 20, preferably 6 to 16, most preferably 8 to 12 carbon atoms is used.

16. Method according to one of the claims 10 to 15 characterised in that as hydrocarbon most preferably a branched or unbranched alkane with preferably 8 to 12 carbon atoms is used.

17. Method according to claim 16 characterised in that as alkane preferably octane, nonane, decane and/or dodecane as well as mixtures thereof are preferably used.

18. Method according to one of the claims 10 to 17 characterised in that as hydrocarbon mixture, mineral oil is used.

Summary

The present invention concerns a contamination barrier 5 that permits an efficient and reproducible processing of a high number of samples with the prevention of contamination of aqueous solutions 3 in open and/or automated systems, especially in the ppm range, in that it comprises at least one water immiscible hydrocarbon compound. In addition a method for the prevention of contamination during the processing of aqueous solutions 3 in open and/or automated systems is disclosed.